





## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Board of Education held the first meeting in the Senate chamber at Augusta, Dec. 13th, and continued its Session to Dec. 21st, 1846.

The meeting was called to order by Hon. Stephen Emory of Oxford Co. and Hon. Philip Eastman of Cumberland, was appointed Chairman, pro tem. When a Committee was raised to receive and examine the credentials of members. The following persons were reported as duly elected:—

From York County—Horace Piper;  
" Cumberland—Philip Eastman;  
" Oxford—Stephen Emory;  
" Franklin—Oliver S. Currier;  
" Somerset—Samuel Taylor, Jr.;  
" Piscataquis—Samuel Adams;  
" Penobscot—David Worcester;  
" Ardoostook—Wm. J. Savage;  
" Waldo—Ebenezer Knowlton;  
" Kennebec—Richard H. Vose;

The Board was organized by the choice of Hon. Stephen Emory of Oxford, Chairman, and Wm. J. Savage of Ardoostook, Clerk.

The throne of grace was addressed by Rev. Mr. Adlam, when the vacancies in the Board were filled by the unanimous choice of Messrs. Aaron Hayden and Benjamin Randall, as members for the Counties of Washington and Lincoln. Subsequently Mr. Arthur F. Drinkwater, appeared and took his seat, as member from Hancock. The members of the Board were duly qualified by Mr. Sawyer, assistant Secretary of State.

A business Committee having been appointed, made reports:

That a free interchange of opinion be had on the following subjects:—

1. The location and construction of school houses.
2. The arrangement of school districts.
3. Text Books.
4. School apparatus and libraries.
5. Mode of qualifying teachers.
6. Education in new settlements.
7. School districts registered.

The remaining part of the first day was spent in animated, and very interesting discussion by several members, of the 1st and 2d topics as reported above. The unfavorable and the desirable points in the location and structure of school houses, were brought to view—together with modes of warming and ventilating them. The evil of dividing towns into numerous and small school districts were developed, as witnessed in short and inferior schools; and a strong desire was evinced, that the remedy might be applied.

The times of meeting of the Board, were fixed at 9 o'clock, A. M. and 2 P. M. The meetings generally continued till one o'clock and 6 P. M.

THURSDAY FORENOON. The discussion on the topic of the arrangement of school districts, was continued by members of the Board at large, with great animation. The result was harmony of view, and a deepened impression of the important bearing of the topic on the welfare of our Common Schools.

The 6th topic also was taken up, viz: "Education in the new settlements," and the wants and difficulties of the newer parts of the State were brought to the attention of the Board. They were received with deep interest.

At three o'clock P. M. the time previously assigned for that purpose, the Board proceeded to elect a Secretary. The laborious and important office was filled by the choice of William G. Crosby, Esq., of Belfast, having received the unanimous vote. Resolved that the thanks of the Board of Education be presented to Hon. Elisha M. Thurston, Provisional School agent of the State of Maine, for the faithful and efficient manner, in which he has discharged the duties of that office.

The topic of "text books" was brought before the Board; the discussion of which occupied the most of the forenoon, and a part of the afternoon. They were considered at length, in reference to their adaptation to the teachers' and pupils' wants, the importance of uniformity in the same school and town,—and the competition among publishers of rival series of School books.

On FRIDAY, the Board took up topic No. 5, viz: "the mode of qualifying teachers." This subject occupied the attention and elicited the deep interest of the Board, during the whole day. The plan and operations of Teachers' Institutes, were fully considered, and that mode of qualifying teachers was adopted. The bearing of parental interest in the school upon the teachers was developed, and the necessity of establishing schools for qualifying teachers in the parts of the State, where they do not now exist.

On SATURDAY, the following order was passed:—"Ordered that each member of the Board be requested to obtain during the recess, as full information as practicable, in regard to the text books now in use in his County, for the purpose of communicating the same to the Board, at the next session."

The business Committee reported that Committees be appointed, on the following subjects:—

1. On School laws and districts.
2. " School houses.
3. " Qualification and Education of teachers.
4. " Branches and modes of intellectual instruction.
5. " Moral instruction.
6. " Physical Education.
7. " Music.
8. " School government and discipline.
9. " Classification of schools and pupils.
10. " Education in new settlements.
11. " Registers and returns.
12. " Text books.
13. " Libraries and apparatus.

This report was adopted, and Committees were appointed accordingly. The Board was eloquently addressed by Mr. Thurston, late Provisional Agent, on the object and mode of operation at large, of the Board of Education.

MONDAY, Dec. 21. It was ordered, that the Secretary of the Board, be requested to propose a plan in detail for Teachers' Institutes, to be held in each County of the State—together with an estimate of the expense necessarily attending them. That he also report such alterations in the times of holding the County Conventions of

School Committees, as will enable him to be present at all the Conventions, and also to visit all the Teachers Institutes during their session. Ordered, That the Secretary of this Board be requested to prepare and transmit to the members of the Board, as soon as may be, a sufficient number of blank returns, for the several towns in their respective Counties, embracing the number of school districts—time of the continuance of each school—number and attendance of the pupils—amount of money raised by the town and expended in each district—kind of books used in the different branches—and such other information as he may deem desirable; and that it be the duty of the members of the Board, in their respective Counties, to obtain the desired information, from the Superintending School Committee of the several towns, to lay before the Board at its next meeting.

Ordered, That the Secretary of State be requested to furnish to the Secretary of this Board such a number of printed blanks, as he may deem necessary, under the above order.

The next meeting of the Board of Education was appointed to be held at Augusta, on the first Wednesday of May next, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

A vote of thanks was given to the Honorable Judge Emory for the able, dignified and courteous manner in which he had presided over the deliberations of the Board; to which the Chairman responded in an appropriate and felicitous address—and the Board adjourned.

The sessions of the Board were without exception, spirited, harmonious and delightful—unclouded by party or sectarian feeling, and devoted to the one object, for the promotion of which they had been established. The great cause of common schools, rose in the view of the mind the longer and more minutely it was contemplated. Views were developed, and plans entered upon, with the favor of the people, must result in the increased efficiency and elevation of the people's colleges throughout the whole State.

Per order of the Board.

Who is responsible for the continuance of the war? Mr. Kennedy answered this question, the other day, in the debate on the President's message.

"Who—who, he asked, were, in fact, responsible for the blood which had been shed in this war. These religious gentlemen were the men. It was their speeches; their exhortations; their denunciations—their professions of the opposition of the American people to the maintenance of the Texas boundary as against Mexico, which has induced that miserable and besotted nation to suppose that a war for the vindication of the United States and for the maintenance of its just rights, would not be sustained, and hence it had been that the Mexicans had rushed madly into the conflict. It was the very same religious influence which induced the Mexicans to contest and refuse submission. It was the course pursued by such religious gentlemen which led the Mexicans to say, 'These friends of ours in the United States will paralyze the hands of their own government, and we will wring from them a favorable peace.' But for such influences, would another battle have followed that of Palo Alto? No. On the skirts of those who denounced the government of the United States for the prosecution of the war rested all the blood of Americans and Mexicans which had been poured out upon the battle field. These were his [Mr. K.] honest views, spoken with great plainness, and without any pretensions to rhetorical effect."

CON. BAKER, the only living member of Congress from Maine, who had his regiment in Mexico, and returned to Washington on a military mission, appeared in his seat on Monday, but resigns it after the 15th of January. The writer for the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser says:—

"Mr. Baker made his speech to-day on the Mexican war, and it is not too much to say that he commanded the exclusive attention and enthusiastic admiration of nearly the whole house and a large number of visitors in the galleries. Mr. Baker's enthusiasm in behalf of the prosecution of the war was quite animating, and will have great effect. He details the whips from the charge of opposition to the prosecution of the war. On the question of its origin and its justice he had nothing to say, relying on the patriotism of the people to light it out now that we are in it.

The whole people, as he said, were in favor of making the war a brief and efficient one, and it was commenced in this spirit, and with this intention; but though we had gained glorious victories, we had gained no results. We had done nothing towards conquering a peace.

What we had done had not crippled the enemy or impaired their resources; but had only served to excite their patriotism, unite their factions, and concentrate their means of resistance. He said that we must conquer peace this winter, by going to the city of Mexico with 30,000 men. If we did not do it this winter, we would never do it so easily hereafter. It would be cruelty to our troops to expose them to a summer campaign.

Mr. Baker offered a joint resolution to authorize the issue of clothing to the volunteers, at cost, which was passed. He proposed that 30,000 men be immediately raised for the war; and that a gratuity of three months extra pay be given to the volunteers and regulars now in the service.

A PATRIOTIC LADY. A Virginia lady, as we learn from the Petersburg Republican, who has been for some time confined to her couch by indisposition, desired a gentleman to visit her, and made known her anxiety to do something for the gallant young men who had volunteered for the war.

"Sir," said she, "I wish to have the honor of contributing to the purchase of the flag which is to be presented to the volunteers; and more, if there is a young man in that company who is about to leave a poor, widowed mother behind, let me know her name, and I will take care of her while he is away."

There was the spark of that true fire which animated the bosom of "Mary the mother of Washington."

## MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

Having conversed with gentlemen who arrived here on Thursday from Havana, we learn that there is a prevailing impression among those who know Santa Anna in that city that he is far from desirous of hazarding an action with the troops of the United States—that he is at heart averse to war, but had not yet secured such a hold as to be able to act counter to the universal desire of his countrymen. It appears to be understood in Havana that Santa Anna has made a demand upon the clergy of the country for a loan of two millions and a half. His sincerity in this is greatly suspected; and he is charged with secretly instigating the reply of the clergy, that the money cannot be procured. Santa Anna persists that it is absolutely necessary for the prosecution of the war, and upon the refusal of the clergy he may find his excuse with his countrymen for not assuming active and offensive hostilities.

We learn that General La Vega, before leaving Havana for Vera Cruz in the British steamer, received from his government the command of a brigade, and was ordered to repair at once to join the army at San Louis Potosi. [N. O. Pic.]

## GENERAL TAYLOR

Is the hero of a very good story, which we find among the last accounts from the seat of war—"Rough and Ready," it will be recollected accompanied Gen. Worth's brigade to Saltillo, in connection with the march into that place. As they approached within a few miles of it, they were met by a courier from the Alcalde or chief governor of the city, who presented to the General a very formidable looking despatch. A halt was called, and the General's interpreter was ordered to give a translation of the document. It opened with an expostulation of the war on the part of the Americans—alleged that it was prosecuted for the purpose of conquest, rapine and plunder—protested against the further advance of the General's forces—threatened him with the retribution that must follow, and—

"No," was the reply, "I have not read half of it."

"O, I'll bear no more of it," said the General.

"March!" He ordered the baggie to sound the advance, and again the column was in motion.

## HOW MR. JONES FAILED.

Some men feel so frequently, that it may almost be said of them, they do "nothing else." We wish they would all follow the example of Mr. Jones.

There once lived, in the city of Boston, a certain Mr. Jones. This same Mr. Jones was an eccentric man—very much so; and among his many other peculiarities was that of failing in business once in every two years. Some people now-a-days have the same extraordinary habit. Mr. Jones always paid his creditors fifty per cent.—no more nor no less than fifty per cent. A very dignified and pompous man was Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones failed again—made an assignment of his effects as usual, and was very much surprised when his assignee said to him—

"Mr. Jones, we shall declare a dividend of forty per cent."

"Sir," said Mr. Jones, in a dignified manner, "you must make it fifty, sir. I always pay fifty cents on the dollar, sir."

"It can't be done," said the assignee.

"It shall be done," said Mr. Jones, elevating his right hand.

"We have not enough property in our hands to do it," said the assignee.

"Sir," said Mr. Jones, declare fifty per cent.—I always pay fifty per cent.—and, sir, if you have not sufficient property in your hands to pay fifty per cent. I, sir, will pay the balance out of my own pocket!"

THE SENATE'S BRIMS. The first springing of the session came off in the U. S. House of Representatives on Wednesday. The subject of debate was the Mexican war, and some conversation of a rather pungent kind took place between Mr. Davis of Ky., and Mr. Bailey, of Va. Both parties talked volubly about interviews, character and man. Mr. Davis shook his fist, in an important manner, and said he would not suffer one to make a false representation of him. Mr. Bailey said if the term false was applied to him he would give it the lie.

The difficulty grew out of Mr. Bailey's remark concerning the "advocate of Mexico," on the floor of the House.

The London correspondent of the Boston Traveller says:—

"The American minister, Mr. Bancroft, resides in a large and elegant mansion in Eaton square, about three miles from St. Pauls Church. A large number of the nobility, gentry and distinguished persons have honored him with friendly calls. I understand that he intends to give several brilliant entertainments as soon as the fashionable season commences, and that will be after parliament opens and Mr. Bancroft is formally introduced at court."

IMPROVED PAPER. A London correspondent of the National Intelligencer says that among other novelties of the day may be mentioned an improved printing press, which was recently tested in London, and threw off the astonishing number of 15,799 impressions in an hour. The inventor is Mr. Little, a gentleman connected with the office of the Illustrated News. He is said to have released £10,000 for his invention. There is also an improved press erected by the celebrated engineers, Messrs. Dryden, in the London Times office, which is warranted to execute 12,000 impressions in the hour, or three in every second.

TIR FOR TAX. The colored persons in Hayti have adopted a new constitution which provides that no white man shall hold real estate or become a citizen of that republic.

THE "UPPER TEN." "Jones, yet must not learn Arithmetic." "Why, mama? Because, my dear, in looking through yours, yesterday, I saw that fractions were vulgar."

## LOSS OF THE SOMERS!

[New Orleans D. Tr. Dec. 22]

We learn from a recent Washington, that the U. S. brig of war Somers was captured and sunk on the 8th inst., at 9 o'clock, P. M., off Green Island. There were 89 persons on board, of whom, it was supposed at the time 39 had perished, and among them were Passed Aldshipmen H. A. Clemens, (acting master) and John King-gold Hyenson.

Since then 16 out of the 39 have drifted ashore one of whom died from exposure. Eight men went ashore on hen-crops, near Vera Cruz, after having been in the water 30 hours, and were taken prisoners of war by the Mexicans. Great credit is due the officers and crews of the English and French vessels of war at anchor near the Somers at the time; every assistance possible on their own part was rendered.

Extract from a well informed source at Vera Cruz: "The recent intelligence from Tabasco is, that this state is much disgusted with the neglect of the Supreme Government of Mexico in not aiding them. It was thought a quorum of Mexican Congress could not be got together."

Of Vera Cruz, Dec. 9, 1846.

One of the most afflicting calamities of the war occurred yesterday in the loss of the brig Somers; which foundered near Green Island.

That day escaped is due to the human exertions and intrepidity of the British, French, and Spanish officers of the squadron lying at Sacrifices, who, notwithstanding the fearful height of the sea, and the rage of the gale, sent several boats each from the principal ships to the rescue. Twenty boats are said to have been out.

The John Adams, without a pilot, ran through the reefs in the heaviest of the gale which carried the Somers down, and succeeded at the most imminent hazard of destruction, in reaching the anchorage of San Anton Lizardo. A merchant brig also escaped in the same manner. The Adams takes the Somers' place to-morrow morning—filling up the breach!

Com. Conner is expected every hour, with the Princeton, Spitfire, and other small vessels from Tampico; and the Albany and Boston from the North; and we confidently expect, upon their arrival, to make an immediate commencement on Alvarado. Some of the patriotic citizens of that place have thrown out polite intimations of their readiness to recommence the exchange of their copper for our iron, and Com. Conner is not the man to decline a traffic furnishing such returns.

I presume you have not yet heard of the attempt of Mr. Rogers, one of the recent cutting-out party, to set fire to a building used as a magazine near the town. His life was probably saved by not succeeding. Himself and one of his boat's crew were made prisoners, and it is said they have been sent to Perote—reason not stated. This is all I know of it.

Franklin. The Printers in the vicinity of Newburyport have met, chosen a committee, and are making arrangements to celebrate the birth of Franklin. The editor of the Hingham Patriot, some years ago, determined to celebrate the 4th of July, and succeeded to admiration. The office hands formed a procession, and marched upstairs; the editor delivered the Oration, the Journal read the Declaration, and the Devil was toasted. After the ceremonies the company adjourned to the office below, and went to—sitting.

Old Fellowship. We have received a neatly executed pamphlet, printed by Sanborn & Carter, entitled "Proceedings of the R. W. Grand Lodge of Portland in November last. The state of the Order is still very flourishing. During the division to the several lodges of the State was 377 expiations, 5 suspensions, 47 deaths. Total number of contributing members, 1,849—nearly 1000 of whom belong to the three lodges in this city. A great amount of good has been done by this 1000 members—we hope they will continue to flourish and increase. [Arg.]

Good News. In New Hampshire there are the most cheering signs of energy on the part of the democrats, and of determination to rescue the state from the old factions. In the two last Concord Patriots we find a manifesto signed by fifteen democrats of Lyman, in Grafton county, who, have heretofore acted with the faction led by John P. Hale, styled the "Independent Democratic" party, but who now renounce Hellenism and now their intention to "go for Williams and democracy at the next election."

A rare curiosity. The Barre Gazette states that a hunter in that town week before last killed an animal which upon inspection turned out to be the joint product of the fox and skunk!—These animals are said to sometimes barrow together in the same hole.

This is the worst thing we ever heard of Reynard. We seriously hope it is scandal. For the sake of science, the naturalists of Barre ought to be quite sure before they publish it to the world as fact. [Boston Post.]

Baltimore, Dec. 29.—Alexander Barrow, U. S. senator from Louisiana, died this morning at 5 o'clock, at Barnum's Hotel. He had left Washington as the friend of G. Davis of Kentucky, with a view to the adjustment of the difficulty with Mr. Bayly of Va. He was taken very suddenly with bilious colic, and so violently as to baffles the skill of the best medical advisers.

Prize Money. A letter from an officer in the U. S. squadron off Tampico says:—

"We took an estimate of the prize money accruing on the various prizes taken at Tabasco and this place. It amounts to \$220,000—half of which, is \$110,000, goes to government; the other half is doing something for itself."

It is said that in Washington, the British minister is about to omit himself to a lovely and accomplished lady of that city.

A Hard Case. A "regular, full grown grindstone," weighing over 30 pounds, was recently exhumed at St. Louis from a thin coating of heath, in which it had been purchased at the rate of 25 cents per pound.

Santa Anna, in a letter to somebody in New York, declares he never will accept a dishonorable peace. He will never be asked to do so.

## OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PARIS, JANUARY 5, 1847.

"The Union—it must be preserved."

## THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

Another year is gone. The last sands have run out, and the stream which is bearing this so swiftly towards the ocean of oblivion, ceases not its silent flow. Another year is gone! Dream-like it has passed away; and with it the plans, the projects, and the hopes of millions! O, days of the past, with what spoils are ye laden! The tale of 1846 has been told. The scenes of that year are now closed—closed forever—its history is recorded—recorded unalterably. And what have we accomplished? Alas, how little compared to what we hoped to have accomplished, and might have accomplished. Two much of the year has been dreamed away without any well directed efforts; and yet none of its mispent hours can be recalled; none of its abused opportunities can be restored. We now stand upon the verge of a new year, a season, by common consent, of kind wishes, and friendly greetings. It is a convenient stage in the journey of life, at which man may profitably rest a moment—a kind of eminence from which he may take a retrospective view of the past,—and gather therefrom lessons of instruction for the future.

Parwell, then, to the old, welcome to the new year! The birth day of the year! How many associations cluster around it! What it has seen its entrance will witness its exit? Will it be bright with joy or dark with sorrow? These things are beyond our knowledge, beyond our control. But, kind readers, we say—not in the spirit of unmeaning complacency, but in sincerity and truth—to you, to all our friends, and to all our enemies—"God grant you may be happy now, and always; not only in this year, but through all the years of your lives." How you have been during the past year, whether happy or unhappy is best known to yourselves. As you make your bed, so you must lie in it. It may be a bed of roses, or a bed of thorns. If the heart be right, the life will be happy; if that be wrong, all is wrong. But enough of this morning. And yet one feels like musing on an occasion like this, when he sees directly marked on the dial plate of time, that he is one year nearer to eternity!

It may not, perhaps, be improper for us to allude to some of the events of the past year,—what has transpired in the second of time just passed? What moral, religious—what agricultural, mechanical—what political? Reader! I have just lived and been among men myself, and do not know as well as we, what has taken place? Have then taken no notes? and must you depend upon the printer's feeble announcement or profit?

Well, we will throw out a few hints which may serve as a key to unlock the history of the past year.

In the moral and religious field, Alton, holy and wholly have been formed, both in the old, and the new world. Many have labored for moral and religious reform, each in his own way, and each undisturbedly to the satisfaction, and it is to be hoped, to the improvement of the circles in which they have worked. Very many some sinners have repented, the lukewarm been warmed, the cold hearted warmed, and the bigoted and ignorant enlightened—and consequently many made charitable and better,—and now do well, not through fear, but from moral principle, a sense of right and duty. And we unite prayers, supplications, that have made long prayers and were long faces, that they might the better deserve the unceasing, and loving from the innocent, the widow and orphan, the "little children" which they depended upon for their daily support—unto them!

But—Desired are the pure in heart, who have re-estimated their past, as accumulated their characters to those of the present and the best of our race, who have sought justice for all classes, and especially for working men, a fair compensation for their labor—Let them form high resolves, adhere to them, and continue to employ their time for the best interest of humanity, and they will leave "footsteps on the sands of time," which the waves of oblivion will not soon efface.

Agriculture—God bless the tillers of the soil! And He has blessed, and I dare bless them. A good season and crops, and a good currency, always well pays the farmer—and even with a bad currency, he is the best off. His books always discount; his harvests never fully fail; his grain and his beef and pork will always pass current so long as there are markets to be fed. The farmers are the salt of the earth, and that salt hath not lost its savor.

The Mechanics—One of the most useful classes among our citizens. Great improvements have been made in the mechanic arts the last year, and they are worthy of great praise. We hope they will ever respect themselves,—study to know their rights—mechanics should always be intelligent, and have opportunity to make themselves so—and knowing their rights manfully defend them. Then they will soon command as fair a price for their labor as does the capitalist for his money.

The events which have occurred in political affairs during the past year, have, indeed, been wonderful! The Oregon question settled, not so well as we could wish, but on the whole, as well, perhaps, as we could expect. The Mexican war, commenced by the President, as declared by the peace in war party, but in truth justly declared by Congress, and not by a party vote, has been truly successful, and will no doubt result in good to this country, and to the great mass of the people of Mexico. The raw tariff has gone into successful operation, and "Gen. Panic" and his aid of "yarn" memory, have already suffered defeat. The



60  
60  
00  
00  
93  
70  
66  
6,  
00  
00  
30  
70  
70  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0  
0

A vertical strip showing a sequence of numbers from 0 to 9, likely representing a page number or index.

This image shows a vertical strip of material, likely a book binding or a piece of fabric. It features a dark, textured central band flanked by lighter, textured side bands. The overall appearance is grainy and high-contrast, with some visible wear and tear along the edges.

This image shows a vertical strip of a document, likely a book or a bound manuscript. The left side of the strip is a dark, heavily textured vertical band, possibly representing the binding or the gutter of the book. The right side is a lighter, more uniform vertical band, representing the page surface. The overall appearance is grainy and high-contrast, typical of a scanned document edge.

A high-contrast, black and white image showing a close-up of a textured surface, possibly a book cover or endpaper. The image is characterized by vertical bands of different materials or colors, creating a striped effect. The texture is rough and grainy, with some areas appearing lighter and others darker. There are some small, dark spots and fibers visible within the lighter areas. The overall appearance is that of a close-up photograph of a physical object, likely a book.



